

**REMARKS**

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7 to include the limitation "wherein the laminate on the reel is aged for 48-72 hours at a temperature of 15°C - 30°C." As demonstrated in Comparative Example 2 (pg. 20), the storage of the reel under the claimed conditions affords substantial advantages over those involving longer term storage. Specifically, the adhesion intensity of a laminate made according to the claimed process is three times that of a comparable laminate stored for 30 days (i.e., 1.2 Kg/25 mm v. 0.4 Kg/25 mm). Accordingly, the claimed methods afford surprising and unexpected advantages over other methods.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the instant claims are in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request formal notification to that effect. If the Examiner perceives any impediment to such formal notification, whether formal or substantive, Applicants ask that the Examiner call Applicants' representative. Such informal communication will expedite examination and disposition of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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